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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

FIG Alt Loennowitz Airfield

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 20 to 31 July 1953

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 August 1963

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Alt Loennowitz airfield between 20 and 30 July 1953:

20 July. In the early morning and between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., individual swept-back jet fighters were observed aloft.

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21 July. About 8:25 a.m. [] sound of jet engines from the airfield and, after a short time, observed several U-MiG-15 or MiG-15s flying over Falkenberg. During the morning, swept-back jet fighters in elements of twos or in flight formation were observed aloft repeatedly.

27 July. Between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., individual MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s practiced flying. Sixteen swept-back jet fighters were counted at the field.

29 July. Single-engine monoplanes practiced formation flying.

30 July. There was no air activity between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. 1

- On 24 July, eight railroad tank cars were observed on the spur track south of the fuel dump. Several temporary wooden buildings surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and guarded by sentries were observed in the wooded area near the target range just north of Grassau Vorwerk, which was occupied by Soviet soldiers equipped with horse-drawn vehicles. 2 In late July, the officers quarters on the road to Falkenberg were occupied to capacity and were guarded by sentries with black-bordered blue epaulets.

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- Between 20 and 31 July, [] the following air activity and aircraft at the field:

20 July. The field was not observed until after 9 p.m. There was intensive night flying by Il-10s after 9:45 p.m. The cloud base was low.

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21 July. At 7:45 a.m., 4 MiG-15s were seen aloft flying individually. Four MiG-15s took off in elements of two and subsequently practiced flying in flight formation. Shortly afterwards, 8 more MiG-15s took off in elements of twos and, judging from the noise heard, also practiced formation flying. The weather was clear. Shortly after 8 a.m. a MiG-15 towing an air sleeve took off, followed by another MiG-15 at an interval of 500 meters. The latter plane fired at the air sleeve attacking it alternately from the left and right. The firing practices continued until 11:30 a.m. There was no air activity in the afternoon. At 8:45 p.m., 2 MiG-15s individually circled the field three times. After 9:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters practiced night flying at very high altitudes.

22 July. In the morning, ground attack aircraft [redacted] flew individually, in elements of twos, and in flight formation. In the afternoon, [redacted] from noises that jet aircraft were practicing banking and diving at very high altitudes. There was firing at sleeve targets. After 9:30 p.m., there was night flying including individual local flying and mostly firing at sleeve targets in the beam of searchlights. As far as could be determined the searchlights were emplaced in a straight line, parallel to the Elbe River, in the area between Sitzendorf and Oschatz. Two swept-back jet fighters with set position lights were observed aloft each time. When flying over the row of searchlights, the towed sleeve target was successively illuminated by crossing beams of two searchlights while the second MiG-15 fired at the sleeve target with red tracer ammunition. The planes flew over the row of searchlights alternately in both directions. At 11 p.m., the firing practices were discontinued probably because of a heavy thunderstorm.

23 July. There was no flying conducted throughout the day. At 7:30 p.m., 4 MiG-15s took off, made local flights and landed at 7:45 p.m. There was a gusty wind from the west and rain showers.

24 July. Between 7:45 a.m. and 4 p.m., MiG-15s practiced individual and formation flying, with up to 14 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s being aloft at the same time. There were scattered clouds. After 9 p.m. swept-back jet fighters with extended landing gears made local flights.

25 July. Individual and formation flying by ground attack aircraft was observed. At 10:30 a.m., 18 Il-10s were seen aloft between the Elbe River and the airfield. The weather was fair.

26 July. There was no air activity.

27 July. Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., swept-back jet fighters flew individually and in flight formation. Over the Elbe River firing at towed sleeve targets was practiced. Between 6:45 p.m. and 7:20 p.m., a formation of 6 Il-10s practiced diving and low-level attacks over the field.

28 July. There was intensive air activity by jet fighters flying individually and in formations of up to 8 MiG-15s. At 4:30 p.m., 17 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were seen aloft. There was night flying by jet fighters between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

29 July. No flying was observed during the daytime. There was a scattered cloud base. At 6:35 p.m., 5 Il-10s [redacted] took off, circled the field widely and landed at 7:15 p.m.

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31 July. In the morning, some swept-back jet fighters practiced air attacks. There were cumulus clouds. At 11:30 a.m., a close order formation of 42 Il-10s in four squadrons flew over the field, the distance maintained by the squadrons was 400 meters. In front and behind the squadrons flew one flight wedge formation each, while three MiG-15s escorted the formation. The planes landed about noon within minutes. 1

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[redacted] Comment. One fighter regiment and one ground attack regiment are stationed at Alt Loonnewitz airfield. The air activity observed followed the previous pattern. [redacted]. Formation flying by the entire ground attack regiment on 31 July is noteworthy.

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[redacted] Comment. Possibly the ammunition dump in the wooded area northwest of the airfield is concerned.

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